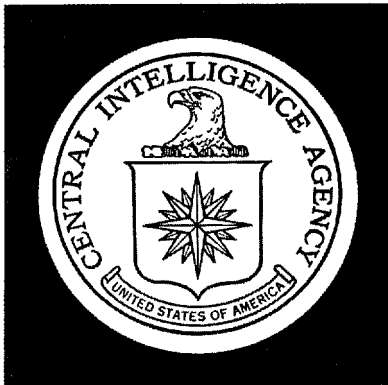




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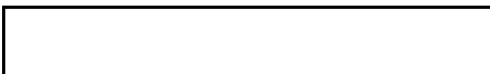
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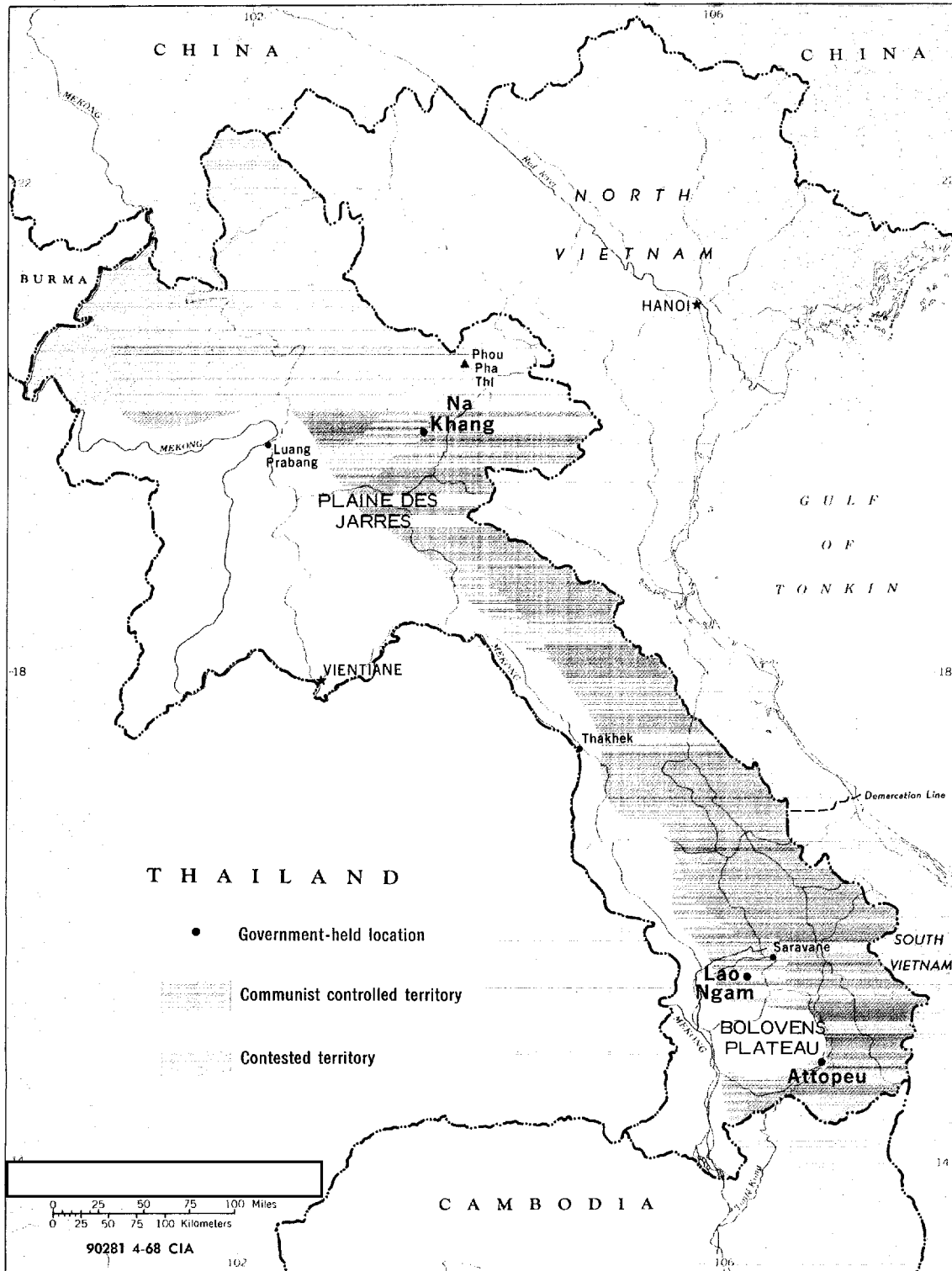
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## LAOS



Laos: There are tenuous signs that the Communists may soon revive their military offensive.

In southern Laos, Communist forces on 12 April launched the first ground assault against government positions at Attapeu since late February, although both the town and outlying defensive positions have been under sporadic harassing fire. At last report, Attapeu was still in government hands and yesterday's attack may have been little more than a probe.

Speculation is rife in government circles, however, that the Communists may mark the Laotian New Year on 13-15 April with a general offensive in the Bolovens Plateau area. This apprehension clearly reflects Communist rumor-mongering and a natural government caution in the aftermath of the Vietnam Tet offensive. There have been signs that North Vietnamese troops are preparing to move against Lao Ngam and government positions on the eastern rim of the Bolovens. They retain the capability of moving against remaining government positions in the area at a time of their choosing.

It does not appear likely, however, that the Communists will strike while two members of the International Control Commission are "visiting" the area.

Meanwhile, the situation in northern Laos remains quiet. Pathet Lao troops have captured two minor government outposts, while government guerrillas have reoccupied a base south of Phou Pha Thi. The expected Communist threat against the important base at Na Khang has still not developed.

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Okinawa: Political agitation over the presence of US B-52s may lead to violence later this month.

In the wake of yesterday's demonstration at Kadena Air Base leftist leaders have scheduled four days of rallies beginning on 28 April, the anniversary of the 1952 Peace Treaty which placed the Ryukyus under US administration. Okinawan demonstrators will reportedly be joined by Japanese leftists and militant students.

The rallies will pose a major test for the Ryukyuan police, who have not been considered strong enough to cope with a large, potentially dangerous mob.

The arrival of the bombers in early February provoked heavy and uniformly critical local press reaction which shows no sign of waning. The issue has put the conservative Liberal Democratic Party on the defensive. If the B-52s are not withdrawn, it could well be a decisive factor against the party in the November elections.

In Japan, Sato's opposition has seized on the issue and uses it to try to embarrass him. According to the press, his chief adviser on Okinawa told him that President Johnson's speech of 31 March should expedite the departure of the bombers.

West Berlin: Rioting triggered by the shooting of leftist student leader Rudi Dutschke began yesterday to take on an anti-American character.

A crowd estimated at 6,000-10,000 clashed with police on the busy Kurfuerstendamm. Police used truncheons and water cannons to disperse the crowd which faded into side streets but remained in the downtown area.

One group gathered before the city hall to hear a leader denounce West German publisher Axel Springer and call for the "de-Americanization" of the radio station in the American sector. Several hundred demonstrators proceeded to the radio station in the American sector and broke a number of the station's windows. The throngs also chanted slogans condemning US policy in Vietnam.

The Berlin press continues to sensationalize details of the background of Dutschke's assailant, Josef Bachmann. Although no valid political affiliation has been established, the press is playing up his infatuation with Nazism and this may fan leftist fervor.

Police alone may find it difficult to deal with the unusually large number of demonstrators, especially if they split into smaller groups and strike a number of targets at the same time. [REDACTED]

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Iran: The Shah has extended by a week the deadline of 20 April he gave the Consortium to come up with plans for a sharp increase in Iranian oil revenues in the next five years. The Consortium may eventually offer some minor, revenue-producing adjustments, but will hardly agree to take fixed and increasing quantities of oil during the next five years. These offers will not meet the Shah's demands, and the confrontation between him and the Consortium will continue.

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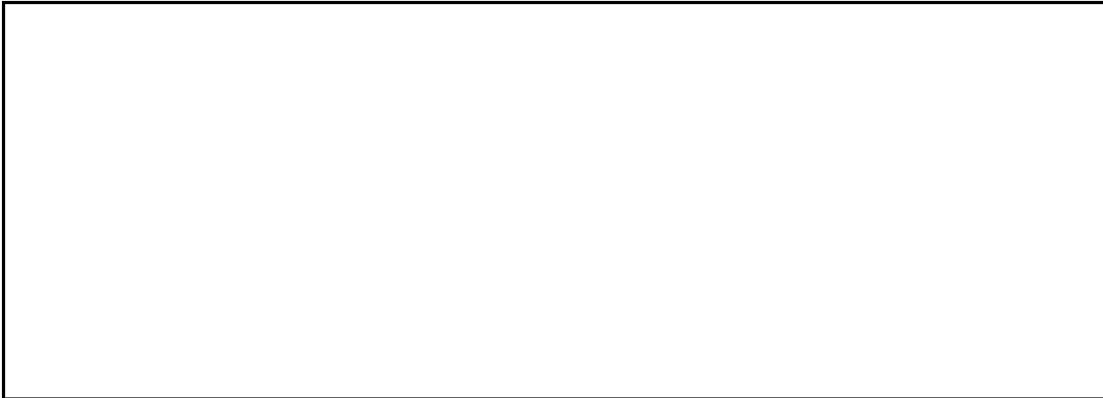
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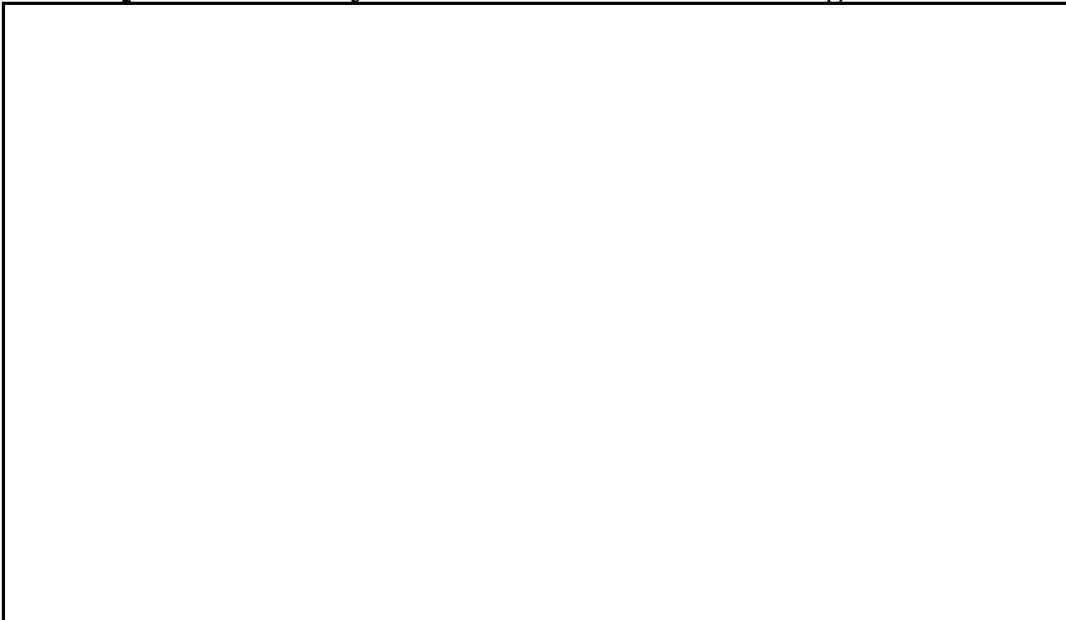
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Nonproliferation Treaty: Sentiment for a delay on the nonproliferation treaty appears to be gaining at the UN. According to the Uruguayan UN representative, a majority of the Latin American delegations now appear to favor postponing UN action on the treaty. The US and USSR had hoped the treaty would be endorsed during the General Assembly session which begins on 24 April. Sentiment for postponement is also prevalent among the French-speaking African delegations. This trend could imperil the treaty's chances at the forthcoming session.

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